United Nations S/2013/558

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 September 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 17 September 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a communication dated 13 September 2013 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, forwarding a report on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, covering the period from 1 May to 31 July 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

13-47784 (E) 200913

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Annex

Letter dated 13 September 2013 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1386 (2001) and 2069 (2012), I attach a report on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force covering the period from 1 May 2013 to 31 July 2013 (see enclosure). I should appreciate it if you would make this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anders Fogh **Rasmussen**

Enclosure

Quarterly report to the Security Council on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to the request under Security Council resolution 2069 (2012), informs the Security Council on the progress of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), covering the period from 1 May to 31 July 2013.

2. Throughout the reporting period, ISAF continued to assist the Government of Afghanistan in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

3. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) welcomes the strong commitment and participation of additional United Nations Member States to support this United Nations-authorized mission, particularly in providing advisers and trainers for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). United Nations Member States are also invited to provide funding support to ANSF.

4. The quarter was marked by a significant waypoint in the ISAF campaign when, on 18 June at the Milestone 2013 ceremony, ANSF assumed lead responsibility for security nationwide. ISAF is now in support of ANSF and has shifted to a training, advisory and assistance role, conducting independent operations mainly for force protection purposes and for the clearance of improvised explosive devices.

5. Much work still needs to be done, with international community support, to develop a sustainable ANSF and guarantee the security gains for the long term. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe assesses that the NATO campaign is on track to meet its objectives.

6. Since the previous report (see S/2013/363), the total number of ISAF troops has continued to decrease in accordance with NATO redeployment planning. As of 1 August 2013, a total of 77,000 ISAF personnel were in theatre,[1] provided by 28 NATO nations and 20 non-NATO nations.

7. ANSF casualties have increased, reflecting the expansion in operations as the insurgency recognizes the importance of this fighting season in the lead-up to the 2014 transition and elections. Casualties among ANSF almost doubled compared with the previous quarter.[2] ISAF suffered 873 casualties,[3] including 54 killed in action and 574 wounded in action (the rest being non-battle deaths or injured). For ISAF, this is a significant decrease compared with the same period in 2012 (104 killed in action and 1,482 wounded in action). Despite the numbers of ANSF casualties, it is assessed that force levels are sustainable based on current recruiting and retention.

8. The Taliban remain resilient but have been unable to achieve their objectives, despite a number of high-profile attacks, which have adversely affected the

[1] Number according to ISAF headquarters review, as of 22 August 2013.

[2] Actual (Afghan) casualty numbers currently not releasable. Enquiries can be submitted to the Government.

[3] According to the ISAF casualty reports summary.

perception of security. At the end of the quarter, it is clear that ANSF have the tactical advantage over the Taliban.

9. Civilian casualties continue to be of significant concern. The total number of civilian casualties during the reporting period was 56 per cent higher compared with the same period in 2012.[4] This is attributable to a 67 per cent increase in civilian casualties caused by the insurgents. Overall, it is assessed that the insurgents were responsible for 88 per cent of civilian combat-related deaths, primarily through the use of improvised explosive devices and complex attacks. The distribution of ISAF-, ANSF- and insurgent-caused civilian casualties during the quarter shows a similar pattern to the 2012 annual trend, with the exception of a rise in insurgent violence against Afghan civilians. ISAF has put considerable and effective effort into reducing civilian casualties and mitigating their effects by reviewing directives and operational procedures, promoting transparency and implementing active mitigation measures that can include compensation or assistance to the victims or their families. ISAF is also working with ANSF to enhance their civilian casualty-mitigation efforts and building capacity to conduct counter-improvised explosive device operations more effectively. Furthermore, following the mid-year report of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, ISAF, in close coordination with UNAMA, has expanded efforts to counter the risks to the population of unexploded ordnance. ISAF is also helping to establish and monitor the full implementation of an Afghan civilian casualties mitigation system.

II. Security situation

10. Violence trends in relation to previous quarters have fluctuated, with enemy-initiated attacks[5] having risen in Regional Command-East, Regional Command-North and Regional Command-West, but they have fallen significantly (by 20 per cent compared with 2012 levels) in Regional Command-South and Regional Command-Southwest. Assessments show that part of the rise in violence in some areas is the result of the expansion of the ANSF security posture. Most important, the violence is increasingly taking place away from the population centres. For example, the top 10 most violent districts account for approximately 35 per cent of enemy-initiated attacks, but contain only 3 per cent of the Afghan population.

11. The insurgents have been unable to tactically win against ANSF, despite their repeated attempts to do so, and as a result, insurgent attempts to disrupt ANSF and ISAF operations have not impeded the mission. One area where insurgents have had moderate success is high-profile attacks specifically aimed at distorting the overall perception of security as part of their information campaign. However, in all of these attacks, ANSF have successfully responded to the incidents. According to a recent (July 2013) survey, Afghans generally have a positive perception of security conditions and perceive that the Government is leading the effort to improve security. However, the population's security needs are not considered to be fully satisfied.

[4] According to ISAF headquarters reporting, as of 16 August 2013.

[5] Enemy-initiated attacks comprise enemy action (enemy-initiated direct fire, indirect fire and surface-to-air fire) and explosive hazard events, and include executed attacks only (improvised explosive device explosions/mine strikes).

12. At the beginning of the quarter, the Taliban announced the start of Operation Khalid bin Walid with five goals: to increase violence; to degrade ANSF capability; to exercise freedom of movement; to defend support zones; and to influence the Afghan population. The insurgency has been unable to achieve the stated goals, and ANSF have demonstrated persistent tactical advantage over the Taliban. The transition process has not been impeded or reversed.

III. Afghan National Security Forces

13. The Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police have continued to go from strength to strength, reaching their final staffing target (352,000). They are on track to complete the fielding of their forces by the end of 2013, and development continues to focus on enhancing capability and professionalism. ANSF are increasingly capable and proactive in conducting security operations, and commanders are improving their understanding and integration of combined arms, despite continuing challenges with sustainability. Logistics, countering improvised explosive devices, operational intelligence and fire support are some of the challenges that ANSF are facing. Recent polling illustrates that the Afghan population views ANSF as a capable force, although many feel that they require coalition assistance. Polling has also illustrated a decrease in the number of respondents who feel "very" or "a little" unsafe, while the number feeling "safe" has increased.

14. The Afghan Air Force made significant progress during the quarter. They contributed to the success of ANSF in the areas of intra-theatre airlift, transport, casualty evacuation, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance operations, fire delivery and support for training. However, Afghan Air Force aircraft and equipment fielding will take longer than the other ANSF services owing to the time required to train personnel and procure aircraft and equipment. The Afghan Air Force is currently dependent on outside assistance and funding for its sustainment, and this situation will continue even beyond 2018, when the fielding of urgently needed new equipment is planned for completion.

15. The assessment is that throughout the quarter, the Afghan Local Police and local defence forces, as part of layered security operations with other elements of ANSF, have frustrated the insurgents' attempts to influence key population areas. However, levels of training for the local police remain lower than for mainstream ANSF units, resulting in operational risks. These risks continue to be partially mitigated through close monitoring by advisers. In many areas, the local police are often the only connection between the rural population and the Government. Where closely coordinated, the layered security concept (Afghan National Army and Afghan Uniformed Police supporting Afghan Local Police in contact) has demonstrated its effectiveness. The manning of the Afghan Local Police during the quarter grew to 23,551 troops deployed in 117 districts. Recruiting continues to exceed attrition, so that manning should continue to increase

16. The Afghan Public Protection Force, established as a State-owned enterprise to replace private security companies after their disbandment, provides security to convoys, development sites, embassies and ISAF bases. It has continued to increase in capacity, with more than 400 working contracts in place. However, its ability to develop further capability remains a challenge, and the force is being increasingly targeted by the insurgency, particularly in its convoy security role.

17. Finally, the development of the ANSF health-care system, critical to sustaining ANSF, continues to show improvement. Medical leadership is actively engaged in the development of hospital capabilities. An inter-ministerial health council has started developing greater health cooperation, and ANSF are now managing pre-hospital care for less serious casualties, although they still need limited coalition support for very serious casualties and medical transportation by air. The Afghan Air Force has significantly improved its average response time to medical emergency requests and increased the number of missions flown by over 125 per cent.

IV. Civil-military interaction

18. Governance support:

(a) The NATO senior civilian representative continues to be actively engaged with the wider international community. He notably contributed to activities that address governance and corruption, including the International Contact Group meeting on 14 May 2013 and the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework senior officials' meeting on 3 July 2013;

(b) Senior NATO officials regard the 2014 Afghan presidential elections and, to a lesser extent, provincial council elections, as the most critical events of the next 18 months in Afghanistan. At the request of the Independent Election Commission, ISAF has provided assistance in security planning and continues to meet regularly with the Government and international stakeholders to maintain situational awareness of progress within the electoral process. Within means and capabilities, ISAF remains prepared to provide planning and logistical support to address gaps in Government and Independent Election Commission capabilities at their request. Commander ISAF assesses that the ANSF are capable of securing the elections;

(c) ISAF continues its support for security ministries in countering and preventing corruption. NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Joint Inter-agency Task Force Shafafiyat have worked closely with the Government in establishing mechanisms in the security ministries on transparency and accountability, and have supported the establishment of a series of transparency and accountability oversight committees in ANSF corps-level commands. ISAF continues to be closely engaged with Transparency International, whose second visit of 2013 took place at the end of the quarter. Transparency International observed progress in the Ministry of Defence with the establishment of transparency and accountability structures, but reported that the Ministry of the Interior had made comparatively little progress in this respect. Corruption is one of the greatest threats to progress in Afghanistan, as well as to government legitimacy and public confidence.

19. Development support:

(a) The NATO-Afghanistan Transformation Task Force at ISAF headquarters has worked to analyse all tasks currently performed by ISAF and prioritize them and identify those that could be terminated at the end of the ISAF mission, those that could be transferred to the potential NATO-led follow-on mission and those that could be offered for transfer to the Afghan Government or to the international community. The transfer of relevant ISAF tasks to the Government is a necessary step towards the transitioning of full responsibility and sovereignty to Afghan hands;

(b) The NATO-Afghanistan Transformation Task Force has worked in close cooperation with the senior civilian representative, the Government and UNAMA to identify Government capability gaps (e.g., Afghan telecommunications, the justice sector, managing and operating the civil aviation system and border enforcement operations). In coordination with the Senior Civilian Representative and ISAF, the Task Force is presenting those identified gaps for discussion within the NATO military chain of command and across the international community.

20. ISAF headquarters is providing strategic advice to the Ministry of Education to develop capacity and capability for tailored literacy, skills training and adult education for ANSF. This includes facilitating the development of the National Literacy Department, the security forces literacy strategy and the literacy trainers programme. Advisers are working with the Ministry of Education to standardize the long-term literacy trainers curriculum, to be implemented prior to the end of 2014. Security ministries are being advised to synchronize their efforts with the National Literacy Department for literacy teacher certification and evaluation, curriculum development and the testing and evaluation of soldiers and policemen.

V. Redeployment

21. During the reporting quarter, the ISAF troop-contributing nations have continued with the redeployment of their personnel and equipment. This activity continues to be coordinated by ISAF and executed by the contributing nations. To date, all personnel and the vast majority of equipment have been redeployed, primarily by air movements. Movement along the ground lines of communication has continued to improve, while air and multimodal lines of communication remain accessible.

22. Diplomatic efforts by NATO headquarters continue to help ensure that northern and southern redeployment ground lines of communication are available, with NATO-brokered and bilateral transit agreements in place. Nevertheless, challenges remain, most of them complex border and customs procedures, bureaucracy and regulations. NATO headquarters, supported by ISAF, is working on those challenges to ensure that the equipment being shipped out of Afghanistan is in full compliance with the transit nations' regulations.

VI. Afghan-Pakistan border situation

23. The total number of confirmed border incidents for the period is 56 per cent lower compared with the same period in 2012. In all, 70 per cent of those incidents were in the border coordination zone, while 30 per cent were cross-border incidents. The majority of the incidents are along the Pakistan-Afghan border.

24. The refurbishment of the Goshta/Mohmand border gate by the Pakistani military created significant tensions with the Government. It caused the cancellation of some tactical military coordination and other higher-level meetings and visits between the two countries. ISAF continued to pursue frequent dialogue with both sides.

25. Effective coordination between ANSF and the Pakistani military is essential in order to apply pressure on Taliban safe havens and reconstitution in the border area. Afghanistan and Pakistan have taken constructive steps during that quarter to

increase military-to-military cooperation. In particular, military representatives of both sides met to coordinate regarding security in the border zone.

VII. ISAF implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1612 (2005)

26. ANSF gender integration made little progress during the quarter. ISAF advisers continue to mentor the Ministry of Defence Assistant for Personnel and Education to reduce the emphasis on ethnicity balancing in order to accelerate gender integration.

27. Children in armed conflicts:

(a) The Government has expressed its willingness to improve the situation for children, but needs training, advice and assistance in order to achieve progress. ISAF has supported the Ministry of the Interior in developing and implementing an awareness campaign against the recruitment of children and in establishing an alert mechanism to report on incidents of child recruitment. ISAF also supported a nationwide awareness campaign for the prevention of child recruitment and assisted in the development of specific child protection training materials for ANSF. At the end of the quarter, NATO senior civilian representative and ISAF facilitated the visit of a delegation from United Nations Headquarters and the United Nations Children's Fund whose purpose was to review the action plan on underage recruitment. The Office of the Senior Civilian Representative facilitated a series of meetings with the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and ISAF legal advisers responsible for advising the Afghan Government on training and recruitment in the security forces. The United Nations mission had contacts with the Government, ISAF and ANSF and observed that, while some progress had been made, further progress was still required. The Afghans demonstrated political will to make progress and as a result, a task force consisting of the relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior, will be formed;

(b) ISAF personnel involved in recruiting, training or partnering with ANSF personnel are required to report serious human rights abuses of children to their chain of command for onward reporting and action, as appropriate. The recent release of an e-learning module (ADL 166, "Children and Armed Conflict"), developed through NATO-United Nations cooperation, is an important practical tool to raise awareness and create skills to address child protection among NATO (ISAF) troops;

(c) Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and follow-on resolutions are included in ANSF training and advising, for example the basic human rights training provided by the Gender Directorate at the Ministry of Interior, in close cooperation with NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, focusing on child rights and child soldiering.

VIII. Conclusion

28. The quarter marked a clear and cognitive shift as ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces entered the final phase of a process of transition, which had started with NATO forces in the lead, to NATO forces partnered with Afghan forces, and then to an Afghan lead, with ISAF operating under a security force assistance construct. ANSF proved capable of effectively securing the Afghan people and are on track to effect a full security transition by the end of 2014.

Commander ISAF assesses that ANSF will emerge from the summer both confident and credible in the eyes of the Afghan population. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe assesses that sustaining this confidence will be critical in securing the elections next year and in guaranteeing long-term stability and security in the region. The continued support of the international community will be important in this endeavour.

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Note verbale dated 13 September 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 September 2013, addressed to H.E. Ban Ki-moon from H.E. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq (see annex), regarding the appointment of Nickolay Mladenov as the new Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq.

It would be highly appreciated if the present note verbale and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

13-47770 (E) 180913 200913

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Annex to the note verbale dated 13 September 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I refer to the announcement of 2 August 2013 that Mr. Nickolay Mladenov has been appointed as your Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, replacing Mr. Martin Kobler. I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Iraq welcomes the appointment of Mr. Mladenov and wishes him success in his new post. We look forward to continuing to cooperate with the incoming Special Representative.

I also wish to commend the intensive efforts of Mr. Kobler in assisting the Government and People of Iraq during his time as Head of the Mission. I wish him continued success leading the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Allow me to take the opportunity to express my appreciation for your continued efforts to support and assist Iraq.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2013/560

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18 September 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 17 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to our letter dated 3 September 2013 and the annex thereto (S/2013/528) with the communiqué issued on the successful visit of Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, to the Sudan, in response to the kind invitation of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, I have the honour to transmit to you and through you to the esteemed members of the Security Council a summary report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan dated 14 September 2013 on the developments following the meeting of the two Presidents and the positive steps taken so far regarding the implementation of the cooperation agreements of 27 September 2012 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

13-47919 (E) 200913 200913

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Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Developments following President Salva Kiir's visit to Khartoum: additional steps to strengthen confidence and cooperation between the two countries

Following the visit of His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Sudan in early September 2013, the two countries have stepped up their communication and coordination and adopted further confidence-building measures. Those actions took place in a positive environment, backed by the strong political will of both leaders to promote relations of peaceful coexistence, good neighbourliness and the realization of the shared interests of the two peoples, whose bonds of friendship, kinship and exchange cannot be severed despite the split. The two countries and peoples can thereby offer the world an African model rooted in cooperation and integration between two States emerging from decades of conflict.

The following is a summary of what has been achieved in the days since President Salva Kiir's visit to the Sudan:

During the latest visit of the Chairperson of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, President Thabo Mbeki, the two Heads of State and President Mbeki signed a joint letter to the international community, in implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Sudan and South Sudan, regarding debt relief for the Sudan and support for the development of South Sudan as a new State. The letter appealed for the regional and international communities to help meet one third of the economic shortfall incurred by the Sudan owing to loss of the South's oil revenues (estimated at 3.5 billion United States dollars) after secession. It called for the unilateral economic sanctions against the Sudan to be lifted.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of both countries have received invitations from the European Union to visit Brussels for consultations with European Union officials regarding European Union support for the two countries, particularly on cross-border projects. This visit would provide an opportunity for the ministers to coordinate their forthcoming bilateral diplomatic activities. In particular, their countries have been invited by the World Bank to discuss the issue of the Sudan's debt during the Bank's annual meetings in October 2013. The ministers have been invited to a consultative meeting on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in order to discuss the development of cooperative relations between their countries. The meeting will be attended by representatives of the African States and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

With a view to fostering contact at various levels, the First Vice-President of the Sudan, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, has invited his counterpart the Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan, James Wani Ega, to visit the Sudan, where they are to co-chair the first meeting of the High-level Joint Committee is to be held. As co-chair of the Joint Implementation Mechanism, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Sudan, the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established the Sudanese component of the Joint Implementation Mechanism. The latter will act as

rapporteur to the Joint High-level Committee. It will meet for the first time in the coming period with a view to coordinating and following up the implementation of all agreements between the two countries. It will bolster the joint diplomatic effort expressed in the memorandum of understanding on political consultation and cooperation signed by the two Ministries during President Salva Kiir's visit to the Sudan.

Similarly, the Minister of the Interior of the Sudan has been invited by his counterpart to visit Juba soon in order to discuss how each country treats citizens of the other. They will address such issues as facilitating the movement of citizens, the agreement on the four freedoms, and the establishment of commercial crossing points along the borders.

At the legislative level, the speakers of the South Sudan National Assembly and the Council of States of South Sudan are expected to visit the Sudan soon in the context of bilateral, regional and international parliamentary cooperation. A parliamentary delegation from the Sudan recently made a successful visit to Juba.

Turning to the private sector, working relations between the two countries have been dynamic. A delegation headed by the President of the South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture and Industry has visited the Sudan, travelling on the first Southern Sudan Airlines airline's first flight from South Sudan to Khartoum. It was agreed that a large delegation of businessmen, including all chambers and branches of the Federation of Sudanese Business Owners and Employers, would visit Juba in the coming days.

In conclusion, the Government of Sudan hopes that relations between the two kindred countries will continue to gather pace for their shared benefit. The Government of the Sudan will spare no effort in promoting this positive trend, and looks forward to the support of the regional and international community in word and in deed. The Government of Sudan commends the efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel headed by President Thabo Mbeki and the African Union Commission and the efforts of President Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

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Letter dated 18 September 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution No. 7678, entitled "Threats posed by Israeli nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction to international peace and Arab national security", which was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level in Cairo on 1 September 2013 (see annex). Paragraph 4 of the resolution urges the Security Council and its permanent members to take swift practical measures to overcome any obstacles to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including by convening the postponed 2012 conference that was provided for at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Fathalla**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

13-47995 (E) 200913 200913

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Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Threats posed by Israeli armament to Arab national security and international peace

Threats posed by Israeli nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction to international peace and Arab national security

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

The note of the Secretariat,

The report on the activities of the Secretariat between sessions,

The recommendations of the Committee of Senior Officials of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat to prepare the Arab States' contribution to the 2012 conference to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction,

The recommendation of the Political Affairs Committee,

Decides:

I.
Preparation for the postponed 2012 conference on ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction

1. To take note of the report and recommendation of the Committee of Senior Officials issued at its 21st meeting on 28 and 29 August 2013, and to request the Committee to continue its work;

2. To stress before the facilitator and organizers of the 2012 conference that the preliminary mobilization and preparations for the conference should comply with the parameters of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East;

3. To request the Committee of Senior Officials to comprehensively review and develop the Arab strategy for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, including the postponed 2012 conference;

4. To urge the Security Council and, in particular, the permanent members, to take swift practical measures to overcome any obstacles to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including by convening the postponed 2012 conference that was provided for at the 2010 Review Conference;

5. To request the Group of Arab States in New York to prepare a note setting forth the Arab position on the postponed 2012 conference for circulation to Member States of the United Nations in the First Committee of the General Assembly.

II.

Arab preparations for the 57th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

1. To stress that Arab States should mobilize at the highest level to garner support for the Arab draft resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" to be submitted to the 57th General Conference of IAEA and, in particular, that the Arab Ministers for Foreign Affairs should write to their counterparts in States members of IAEA in support of the Arab position;

2. To entrust the Group of Arab States in Vienna with the following tasks:

- Continuing to mobilize and to meet with geographic and political groups, particularly the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; instructing all resident and other representatives accredited with IAEA to assess and garner support for the Arab resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities";
- Responding to the Israeli communication addressed to IAEA (document GC(57)18) regarding the request to include in the agenda of the 57th General Conference an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities", in order to rebut the claims made in the letter and explain the Arab position, and circulating that response to the States members of IAEA at the General Conference;
- Requesting an explanation from IAEA as to why the definition of the States of the Middle East region was omitted from the 2013 report of the Director General of IAEA entitled "Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East", and requesting that IAEA should take action to correct the report;
- Assessing the Arab position after the 57th General Conference and reporting to the Council of the League at its forthcoming session.

III.

To report to the Council at its forthcoming session regarding the issue and relevant developments

(Resolution No. 7678 — 140th ordinary session — 2nd meeting — 1 September 2013)